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Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Office of Technical Assistance

NOV 02 1999

Fact Sheet No. 1
March 1996

University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

✓ Household Hazardous Waste Reduction

✓ AUTOMOTIVE WASTE PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

DID YOU KNOW?

Some automotive products contain substances that can be toxic to humans and the environment. Just a gallon of dumped used motor oil can create an 8-acre slick on surface water and render one million gallons of fresh water undrinkable.

You can help protect the environment by using up leftover automotive products or taking them to a community-run automotive products recycling center, some service stations or to a household hazardous waste collection site.


PREVENTING AUTOMOTIVE WASTES

- Avoid buying and storing excess products that could become waste if you move or no longer need them. Try to use up what you already have or give away excess amounts to friends, service stations, or vocational schools with automotive training programs.
- Keep products and wastes in separate containers with the contents clearly labeled. *Mixtures of wastes are not recyclable and will require costly disposal.*
- Consider using a service station or quick-lube shop instead of doing auto maintenance yourself. Stations with good reputations properly manage hazardous materials from your auto and save you time.

MANAGING WASTES

Do not put auto wastes down the drain, on the ground, or in the trash. For the nearest collection center, call the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) at (617)727-3260 x 696 or the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at (617)556-1022.

Gasoline: No services exist to collect or recycle gasoline because it is extremely flammable and explosive. Never store excess gasoline; it jells and deteriorates with age. Gradually burn up excess gasoline/oil mixtures in a lawn mower or snowblower. Burn excess gasoline in your auto. Filter and add gasoline reconditioner first if gasoline is very old. Contact OTA for more information.

Motor Oil: Recyclable. Retailers of motor oil are required to take back up to two gallons of used oil per day, per person with a sales slip. Try to buy your oil from a retailer that accepts used oil without a sales slip (you may lose it). Many Mobil and Exxon service bay stations and quick-lube shops accept oil without a slip. Look for the "oil drop" symbol () posted at some stations. Your community may also have a collection tank for residents -- call the DEP Used Oil Hotline at (617)556-1022.

Oil Filters: Recyclable when drained. A filter contains a significant amount of oil. Run engine first to heat the filter and oil. Drain punctured oil filter while still warm, tilting at an angle for at least one hour (a minimum of 12 hours is required for some community collection programs). Recycle the oil. If filters are not accepted at a service station, scrap metal company or community automotive recycling center, call your community recycling office. If necessary, wrap in newspaper and place in trash.

Antifreeze/Coolant: Recyclable. Three ounces swallowed can be fatal to an adult. Animals and children are attracted by its sweet taste. Store out of reach. Some service stations, quick-lube shops and communities will recycle. Will interfere with septic systems.

Auto Batteries: Recyclable. The lead and acid in auto batteries can be harmful to the environment. Do not dispose of in the trash. Stores selling automotive batteries will usually accept returns at no cost. Scrap metal firms may pay a dollar or more per battery. Trade in your old battery when buying a new one. Many communities also collect used auto batteries for recycling.

Brake Fluid: Ask whether a service station or quick-lube shop will accept or take it to a household hazardous waste collection event.

Freon[®]: Recyclable. CFCs in air conditioner refrigerant can harm the stratospheric ozone layer if released to the atmosphere. Refrigerant should only be removed from your vehicle for recycling by a certified recycling professional at a service station.

Transmission Fluid: Ask whether a service station or quick-lube shop will accept or take it to a household hazardous waste collection event.

For more information on these and other household hazardous wastes or products, contact the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance at (617)727-3260 x 696.

THANK YOU FOR PREVENTING OR MANAGING AUTO WASTES

This fact sheet was prepared by the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA), a branch of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. OTA's mission is to assist in reducing the use of toxic chemicals or the generation of hazardous waste by manufacturers and residents of the Commonwealth. OTA assumes no responsibility and disclaims liability for any injury or damage due to information herein. This information is available in alternate formats upon request. For further information about this fact sheet and other household hazardous waste reduction strategies, or about OTA's technical services, contact: Office of Technical Assistance, 100 Cambridge Street, Room 2109, Boston, Massachusetts, 02202; phone #(617)727-3260; fax #(617)727-3827; electronic bulletin board #(617)727-5621.